



Mr Matthew Parkinson
Manager Environment and Approvals
AGL Macquarie Pty Ltd
New England Highway
Muswellbrook New South Wales 2333

25/02/2021

Dear Mr Parkinson

**Bayswater Power Station Upgrade (SSD-9697)
Request for Additional Information - Commonwealth Assessment**

I refer to the assessment for the Bayswater Power Station Upgrade (SSD-9697). After careful consideration, the Department is requesting that you provide additional information to inform the assessment of potential impacts to Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) in the context of the 2019-2020 bushfires.

The comment on the impact of the bushfires is made in section 5.2.1 of the updated Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) (dated December 2020) is acknowledged, including that there was no direct impact to study area or locality (10 kilometre radius) given the nearest bushfires to the study area occurred around 24 kilometres away.

The Department requests the following additional information to inform its assessment of relevant threatened species or ecological communities:

- The percentage and total area (hectares) of habitat that was lost as a result of the bushfires from the Sydney Basin Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA) bioregion and the Hunter subregion (Version 7, as specified in BAM 2020) and what percentage of the remaining habitat the study area comprises. If a 'species credit' species the Threatened Species Data Collection database should be consulted to ensure the appropriate type of habitat (e.g. foraging, roosting) is assessed.
- Whether the regional extent (Sydney Basin IBRA region and Hunter subregion) of the habitat has reduced to an extent that the habitat within the study area is of increased importance for recovery of the species or community
- Updated Assessments of Significance under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* in accordance with the MNES Significant impact guidelines 1.1.

Information on species impacted by the bushfires is available at <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/bushfire-recovery>

You are requested to provide the information, or notification that the information will not be provided, to the Department by Wed 24 March 2021. If you are unable to provide the requested information within this timeframe, you are requested to provide, and commit to, a timeframe detailing the provision of this information.

If you have any questions, please contact Jack Turner, who can be contacted on 02 9995 5387/ at Jack.Turner@planning.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SOD', written in a cursive style.

Stephen O'Donoghue
Director
Resource Assessments